

Application No. 10/655,322 ✓

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATIONIn the Specification

Please substitute the following amended paragraph(s) and/or section(s) (deleted matter is shown by strikethrough and added matter is shown by underlining):

At page 9, line ³³~~29~~ to page 10, line ¹¹~~1~~, please replace the paragraph with the following.

As an alternative to producing lithium manganese oxide nanoparticles by the thermal processing of manganese oxide particles, lithium manganese oxide particles having diameters substantially less than a micron have been produced directly by laser pyrolysis. For the direct production of lithium/manganese composite materials, laser pyrolysis preferably involves an aerosol based reactant delivery apparatus. Heat processing of the composite particles results in crystalline lithium manganese oxide particles with a spinel crystal structure. The formation of nanoscale, amorphous lithium manganese oxide directly by laser pyrolysis is described further in copending and commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/188,768 to Kumar et al., entitled "Composite Metal Oxide Particles," filed on November 9, 1998, now U.S. Patent 6,607,706, incorporated herein by reference.